

# Friday Notes

Council for Agricultural Science and Technology

The Science Source for Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Issues



Friday Notes is designed to enhance communication among various agricultural sectors, educators, students, and the public who are interested in a variety of plant, animal, food, and environmental issues. Friday Notes advocates the pursuit of credible, unbiased, science-based information. Material contained in linked articles is from the original authors and does not necessarily reflect the views of CAST.

In This Issue..... [Click to Read](#)

[Current Links about Agriculture, Science, and the Pandemic--P. 2](#)

[Animal Agriculture News](#)

[Food Science and Safety News](#)

[Plant and Environment News](#)

[International News](#)

[General Interest News](#)

## Somewhere Under the Rainbow



A lucky photographer caught an 8-minute [waterfall rainbow in Yosemite Park](#).

## Veterinary Paper Webinar

On April 7 at 12 p.m. CDT, CAST will host a [webinar highlighting its new paper](#), *Impact of Recruitment and Retention of Food Animal Veterinarians on the U.S. Food Supply*. Join to discover more about this important topic.

April 1 was Census Day--a time to highlight the importance of data collection and [how to make sure all individuals are counted](#).



[FFA members are giving back](#) to their communities through a variety of service projects, and the [2020 Virtual 4-H Legacy Awards](#) feature young people in compelling stories.



The [Animal Agriculture Alliance's](#) 2020 Virtual Stakeholders Summit will take place May 7-8.

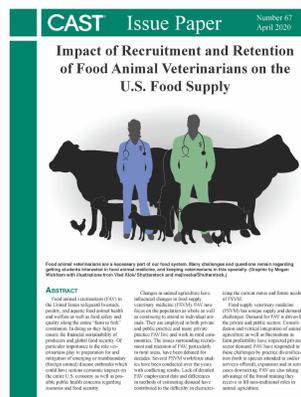
April 3, 2020

## Food Animals and Veterinarians

*CAST paper and webinar highlight challenges*

Food animal veterinarians in the United States safeguard livestock, poultry, and aquatic food animal health and welfare--as well as food safety and quality. They also play a role in the country's ability to prevent transboundary disease outbreaks. Now more than ever, it is imperative that the nation is able to recruit and retain food animal veterinarians--but that has become increasingly difficult. For an [insightful student perspective about the issue](#), read this blog from Bailey Archey of Mississippi State University.

An [April 7 CAST webinar](#) will highlight research addressing many factors of this important topic. A free download of CAST's Issue Paper, *Impact of Recruitment and Retention of Food Animal Veterinarians on the U.S. Food Supply*, will be available April 6, from the [CAST website](#).



## News and Views

**Showing the Spread:** The Johns Hopkins Resource Center includes an [interactive map showing the spread of coronavirus](#).

**Government Initiatives:** The FDA detailed a "special emergency program" for [accelerating research and development](#) of potential treatments for coronavirus disease, and the USDA emphasized an [effort focused on serving beginning farmers and ranchers](#).

**Ag and the Virus:** The pandemic is posing a threat to the [livelihoods of many farmers](#), but as Agri-Pulse's Sara Wyant says, U.S. [agriculture is shining in the fight](#) against this disease.



**Rural Broadband Needs:** The Federal Communications Commission is granting providers the ability to boost Wi-Fi access in nearly 30 states to [support rural telework and telehealth--and remote learning](#)--during the coronavirus pandemic.

**Rural Hospitals Face Challenges:** Rural hospitals and private medical practices are [struggling to stay open](#). Often underfunded, understaffed, and undersupplied, they're [facing the looming impacts of COVID-19](#).

## News from the Far Side of the Barn

During this tumultuous time, the [National Association of Agricultural Educators](#) continues to provide services and educational ideas.

[Penn State students](#) are part of a NASA program that will develop technology to study the surface of the moon.

### Send in Ideas

CAST [welcomes suggestions](#) for future publications and projects.

### CAST Social Media



**Murmurations (video):** We've seen cool-looking flight patterns before, but this photographer [traces the movement of thousands of starlings in a mesmerizing way](#).

**Canine Deliveries (video):** A golden retriever helps his owner [deliver groceries to a quarantined neighbor](#)--related link at right.

**Return of the Tuxedo-clad Nightwalkers (video):** The Shedd Aquarium penguins went on [another field trip](#), and the [beluga whales seemed to enjoy it](#).



This [grim-faced delivery dog](#) helps wine lovers keep their distance--related link at left.

## COVID-19 Updates and Resources

*CAST provides information from numerous credible sources*

The CAST blog provides regular updates about news headlines, announcements, and pertinent educational resource materials related to agriculture, science, our members, and CAST activities. CAST's latest blog, "[How the Pandemic is Affecting Farming](#)," provides many informative links about agriculture in this time of crisis.

Check these three recent blog posts for more useful information:

- (1) [Hoaxes and misinformation](#)
- (2) [COVID-19 and food safety/systems](#)
- (3) [Resources for virtual learning](#)

You can stay updated on CAST news and more by [joining our mailing list](#) and through our [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#) pages. Plus, Executive Vice President Kent Schescke [reviews upcoming papers in this CAST blog](#).



## Useful Links from Universities...and More

All university members of the [CAST Education Program](#) provide updates and information about their responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. A few examples include:

[Cal Poly](#) provides its students with updates and information about the current coronavirus situation. [Texas A&M](#) experts offer COVID-19 cleaning and disinfection guidelines. Quarantine time or not, dedicated staff and students at [UC-Davis](#) are tending to the livestock and other animals on campus. This [Iowa State University](#) professor explains tactics that help as the school shifts to all coursework online. [Tuskegee University](#) officials say there is so far no evidence to suggest that you can get coronavirus from your pet or other animals. A [University of Missouri](#) article explains how freezing can provide a way to keep nutritious milk on hand at all times. [Cornell University](#) provides a list of quotes from experts about the current pandemic.

CAST members are excellent sources of information, and we welcome links from organizations, companies, schools, and individuals that might enlighten our readers.

The [dairyreporter](#) provides updates and breaking news about the implications of COVID-19 for the food sector.

This site highlights the efforts to [develop vaccines and treatments for COVID-19](#).

The ten [recipients of the Borlaug CAST Communication Award](#) are excellent resources for credible information.

Click here to access the [CAST YouTube channel](#) for video content about science, food production, and agriculture.

## Friday Notes News Categories

Photos courtesy of the Agricultural Research Service (top masthead); TopLatest News (globe at right). P. 1 rainbow pic from laughingsquid.com, collage from portal.ct.gov, and dog pic from foxnews.com. P. 2 graphic from cisa.gov. Animal Sec. woman photo from nationalhogfarmer.com. Food Sec. market pic from lasvegassun.com. Plant Sec. prairie pic from U.S.fishandwildlife services.jpg. Inter. Sec. pangolin pic from pinktreefrog.typepad.jpg. Gen. Sec. drive-in pic from getty.com. Unless otherwise noted, photos courtesy of the USDA Agricultural Research Service or CAST.



### *Animal Agriculture and Environmental News*

**Impulse Buying:** Baby [chicks are on the panic-buying list](#), but many people do not realize that raising poultry is distinctly different than stocking up on bottled water or toilet paper.

**Livestock and the Virus:** According to this Kansas State University release, COVID-19 is transmitted through humans, not animals, and there is [no evidence that livestock can transmit the disease to humans](#).

**Meat Production:** U.S. meat and poultry production [increased an estimated 10%](#) during the week ending March 28.

**Proper Antibiotic Use:** University experts examine the proper use of [antibiotics in a treatment protocol for beef cattle](#).

**Spilled Milk:** Some dairy farmers are being [asked to dump milk](#) because of the economics of the COVID-19 situation.

**Feral Swine Rampage:** New USDA estimates show invasive [feral swine cause \\$272 million in losses](#) each year across 12 U.S. states.

**Quality Cattle:** Research shows a significant financial premium for calves and feeder cattle raised by [Beef Quality Assurance](#) certified producers and sold through video auction markets.

**Smart Practices:** An experienced [veterinarian gives advice](#) about livestock production to farmers about smart practices related to the coronavirus.



This young veterinarian grew up on a cattle farm, studied animal science, and now [focuses on pigs](#)--especially herd health and the elimination of diseases.

### *Food Science and Safety News*

**Stay Calm and Carry On:** While the sight of empty supermarket shelves may lead shoppers to fear food shortages, [experts say the system is built to endure](#).

**CDC Information:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides [information about food safety](#) both in normal times and in light of the coronavirus.

**Food in the Wash Cycle? (opinion):** Despite what a doctor in a viral video suggests, this site says it is not a good idea to wash fruits and vegetables [with soap and water](#).



**Global Food Trade:** Many countries have applied or are considering [trade restrictions on food or agricultural products](#) due to the spread of the coronavirus around the world.

Food buying just isn't the same. This NC-State information link looks at [issues about products at the grocery store](#).

**Consumer-to-Cattle:** This group launched a website to [connect consumers with their neighboring cattle farmers](#) and ranchers.

## *Plant Agriculture and Environmental News*

**Fertilizer of the Future:** A researcher at NC-State is leading a team that hopes to [rethink how nitrogen-based fertilizers are produced](#) and used.

**USDA Crop Forecast:** According to early predictions, U.S. farmers will be [planting more corn and soybeans in 2020](#), with a rebound in acreage after last year's record-wet season and prevented plantings. [Some think the corn forecast is inflated](#).

**Get Growing:** The University of Kentucky offers free "[Horticulture Webinar Wednesdays](#)" on a number of topics.

**Ethanol Reduction:** Ethanol production hit a [six and a half year low](#) last week, the first week truly reflecting the impact of COVID-19.

**A Good Cover-up:** This Ohio State University article examines the [value coming from late-planted cover crops](#).



Prairie research could [help farming become more resilient](#). Climate and grazing are the primary drivers of the prairie ecosystem.

## *International News*

**The Silence of the Crowd (video):** The horse races in Hong Kong's Happy Valley typically draw up to 20,000 people, but they [now run to an eerie silence due to the pandemic](#).

**Meat Trade:** China has [not approved any new Brazilian meat production plants](#) for export this year because of the coronavirus pandemic.

**Bleaching Damage:** With warmer sea temperatures in February, Australia's Great Barrier Reef has [suffered another mass bleaching event](#)--the third in just five years.

**Food Costs:** German [fruit and vegetable prices may increase](#) following coronavirus-related travel bans that close borders and hinder the arrival of seasonal workers.

**Food Production in the Subcontinent:** The coronavirus shutdown in India highlights the [need for the country's poverty-stricken migrant laborers](#).



**Smuggled pangolins can carry viruses** closely related to the one sweeping the world. Scientists say their sale in wildlife markets should be prohibited.

## *General Interest News*

**Lemon Juice, Mosquitoes, and Blood (video):** This segment tackles [myths about coronavirus](#) that are being shared online. Also, check out the CAST blog about coronavirus [hoaxes and misinformation](#).

**Give Blood:** The FDA is addressing the [urgent need for blood donations](#) during the pandemic.

**Helping Out:** Many corporations are helping during the crisis--Tyson Foods is committing \$13 million to [support local communities](#), and the Elanco Foundation has pledged money to [help with food insecurity](#).

**Poo Fighter:** A determined 11-year-old Canadian led the [fight to keep raw sewage](#) out of a Nova Scotia river.

**Lure of Small Town Theaters:** The virus has them closed for now, but rural theaters feature [sticky floors](#), [variety shows](#), and [mascot pigs](#) (related link in caption).



With movie theaters around the world closed because of the ongoing pandemic, [drive-in theaters appear to be having a momentary comeback](#).

## Societies, Companies, and Nonprofit Organizations Serving on the CAST Board of Representatives

- \* Agricultural & Applied Economics Association
- \* American Association of Avian Pathologists
- \* American Association of Bovine Practitioners
- \* American Bar Association, Section of Environment, Energy, & Resources-Agricultural Management
- \* American Dairy Science Association
- \* American Farm Bureau Federation
- \* American Meat Science Association
- \* American Meteorological Society, Committee on Agricultural and Forest Meteorology
- \* American Seed Trade Association
- \* American Society for Nutrition Nutritional Sciences Council
- \* American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers
- \* American Society of Agronomy
- \* American Society of Animal Science



- \* American Society of Plant Biologists
- \* American Veterinary Medical Association
- \* Aquatic Plant Management Society
- \* BASF Corporation
- \* Cal Poly State University
- \* Corteva Agriscience
- \* CropLife America
- \* Crop Science Society of America
- \* Entomological Society of America
- \* Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy
- \* Bayer
- \* National Cattlemen's Beef Association, a Contractor to the Beef Checkoff
- \* National Corn Growers Association/Iowa Corn Promotion Board

- \* National Milk Producers Federation
- \* National Pork Board
- \* North Carolina Biotechnology Center
- \* North Central Weed Science Society
- \* Northeastern Weed Science Society
- \* Poultry Science Association
- \* Rural Sociological Society
- \* Society for In Vitro Biology
- \* Soil Science Society of America
- \* Syngenta Crop Protection
- \* The Fertilizer Institute
- \* Tuskegee University
- \* United Soybean Board
- \* University of Nevada-Reno
- \* U.S. Poultry and Egg Association
- \* Weed Science Society of America
- \* Western Society of Weed Science

*CAST, through its network of experts, assembles, interprets, and communicates credible, balanced, science-based information to policymakers, the media, the private sector, and the public.*

## Members of CAST's Education Program

- \* Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo
- \* Cornell University
- \* Iowa State University
- \* Kansas State University
- \* Mississippi State University
- \* North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University



- \* North Carolina State University
- \* Penn State University
- \* Texas A&M University College of Ag & Life Sciences
- \* The Ohio State University
- \* Tuskegee University
- \* University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture
- \* University of California-Davis
- \* University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences
- \* University of Kentucky
- \* University of Missouri-Columbia
- \* University of Nebraska Agricultural Research Division
- \* University of Nevada-Reno College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources

Note: Land O'Lakes supports the delivery of *Friday Notes* to NAAE

Dan Gogerty (Communications and *Friday Notes* Editor)  
Kimberly Nelson (Communications and Social Media Specialist)  
The Council for Agricultural Science and Technology  
4420 West Lincoln Way  
Ames, Iowa 50014-3447  
Phone: 515-292-2125, ext. 222 (Dan) and 230 (Kimberly)  
E-mail: [dgogerty@cast-science.org](mailto:dgogerty@cast-science.org) and [knelson@cast-science.org](mailto:knelson@cast-science.org)



**\*\* With assistance from Megan Wickham (Scientific Editor) and Colleen Hamilton (Membership Specialist)**

***CAST provides Friday Notes as a benefit to its members. Please do not forward, edit, copy, or distribute the Notes in any form to nonmembers without the express permission of the CAST Executive Vice President Kent Schescke ([kschescke@cast-science.org](mailto:kschescke@cast-science.org)). Instead, please encourage your colleagues to join CAST and thereby become eligible for all membership benefits. Contact Colleen Hamilton at 515-292-2125 or [chamilton@cast-science.org](mailto:chamilton@cast-science.org), or CLICK [HERE](#) for CAST membership information.***